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Northern Region News

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More than 200,000 cattle graze each year on the Northern Great Plains planning unit.

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 7

July 1995



Little Missouri River, potential Wild & Scenic River, in the Little Missouri Grassland, North Dakota, Custer National Forest.

The Northern Great Plains Management Plans Revisions are a combined planning effort involving the Custer National Forest (R-1), Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest (R-2), and Nebraska National Forest (R-2). The management plans revisions include the four National Grasslands (NG) of the Custer NF: Cedar River NG, Grand River NG, Little Missouri NG, and Sheyenne NG, a total of 1.2 million acres in North and South Dakota.

In 1995, Forest Supervisors of the Custer, Medicine Bow-Routt and Nebraska NFs decided to work together in revising the long-range direction for the National Grasslands of the Northern Great Plains.

The four NGs on the Custer NF, the Thunder Basin NG managed by the Medicine Bow-Routt NF and the five NFs and NG units managed by the Nebraska NF encompass approximately three million acres. Although these public lands make up only two percent of the Northern Great Plains, they are very important to the plains people for products and opportunities they provide and are significant contributors to wildlife habitat and biological diversity.

Land and Resource Management Plans (often called Forest Plans), developed a decade ago, were not entirely successful in recognizing the issues and values common and unique to the National Grasslands. The Northern Great Plains Management Plans

4 R-1 Grasslands

Revisions acknowledge these shared issues and provide a mechanism to capitalize on management experiences and knowledge to build direction that takes these important national resources into the next century.

In the spring of 1996, the planning team verified preliminary planning issues with the public and is now writing the Analysis of the Management Situation (existing conditions). In December, 1996, the Notice of Intent to Revise the Management Plans will be published in the Federal Register and public involvement to identify/verify issues

by Pam Gardner, Public Affairs Officer,
Northern Great Plains,
Nebraska National Forest, Chadron, Nebraska.



Sharp-tailed grouse are popular with bird hunters and wildlife watchers on the National Grasslands of North Dakota and South Dakota.

will begin. Major steps in the revision of the three management plans include:

January 1997 to June 1998: prepare draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and proposed Management Plans (MP).

June to October 1998: public review and comment period on draft EIS and MP.

Oct. 1998-Dec. 1998: review and respond to public comments.

Dec. 1998-May 1999: make changes in EIS and proposed MP.

May 1999, issue final EIS and revised MP and Records of Decision.

For added details about the Northern Great Plains Management Plans Revisions process, contact: Pam Gardner, Northern Great Plains Public Affairs Officer, USDA Forest Service, 125 North Main Street, Chadron, NE 69337; telephone (308) 432-030 DG:R02F07A.

TRAILS OF THE PAST

Flathead NF Publishes Historic Overview, 1800-1996

The Flathead NF recently completed and published a historic overview of the Forest. TRAILS OF THE PAST was written and researched by Kathryn L. McKay, Columbia Falls, Montana, under a contract with the Flathead NF.

While the publication is termed an "overview", the document presents a wealth of information in some detail. It covers the Euro-American history of the area from early explorations through the post World War II era. The history of Indians in the area has been intentionally omitted, not because it isn't important, colorful, or interesting, rather because it deserves a publication of its own.

TRAILS OF THE PAST chronicles important events of the Flathead NF within the



Fire control officer Theodore W. (Toad) Paullin with a "short string" in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, 1967, along the trail to the old Picture Lookout point.

Photo by George R. Wolstad, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region.

Big Prairie Ranger Station, 1913, was closer to the South Fork of the Flathead River than the current administrative complex. Photo courtesy of Flathead NF, Kalispell, Montana.

broader context of the development of the entire region. Major themes include the fur trade, early exploration and missionaries, mining, settlement and agriculture, Forest Service administration, transportation, communications, fire, timber, homesteading, recreation, and others.

During the course of her research, McKay traveled throughout the four-state Northern Region and as far as Washington DC in search of references. These efforts paid off in a document that, in the words of Gary

McLean, FNF Heritage Resource Officer, "is thorough, accurate, informative, and most importantly, is enjoyable reading."

Copies of TRAILS OF THE PAST have been distributed to all R-1 National Forests, Montana Universities, and local libraries. For more information contact Gary McLean, Flathead NF headquarters, 1935 Third Ave. East, Kalispell, Montana 59901 (telephone 406/755-5401).

Changing 'Chutes



Testing new FS-14 parachute.
The new parachute replaces the old FS-12.

Photo by Bob Beckley.

FS-14 Parachute Replacing Old FS-12 Servicewide in '96

by Dave Pierce, Project Leader,
Missoula Technology & Development Center.

A new smokejumper parachute canopy, the FS-14, has been developed to replace the aging FS-12.

Evaluated by smokejumpers in 1994, the FS-14 was accepted for Servicewide use after modifications and a final evaluation in 1995.

The new canopy offers performance unmatched by any military or commercial design. The FS-14 achieves the best drag coefficient ever produced in a round canopy. It offers improved descent rate, improved stability, quicker turns and enhanced maneuverability making the FS-14 safer than the FS-12 it replaces.

The Forest Service awarded a contract for the manufacture of 1,000 FS-14 canopies for delivery in the spring of 1996.

The FS-14 was developed in response to a 1992 request from the WO Fire & Aviation Management to the Missoula Technology & Development Center to develop an improved smokejumper parachute. Design prerequisite called for improvements in descent rate, stability, and maneuverability while maintaining the opening reliability of direct D-bag static-line deployment in a round canopy equipped with an antiinversion net.



Participants in Missoula at the region-wide R-1 videoconference, in May, to share and exchange ideas and visions developed out of the 7th American Forest Congress in Washington, D.C. in February.

Imagine more than 200 people meeting, discussing, planning and making decisions when the participants are at 13 different locations that are 100 or even thousands of miles apart.

R-1 is doing just that, using videoconferencing to bring people from the National Forests and the RO together in an electronic meeting/conference room.

Using a process called "switched compressed video," R-1 conducted a region-wide meeting in May by video, operating through IBM video hardware, utilizing AT&T phone lines. The conference was organized and conducted by the RO Public & Governmental Relations (P&GR) office to share and exchange ideas and visions developed out of the recent 7th American Forest Congress (Feb. 20-24) in Washington, D.C.

Laird Robinson of the P&GR staff coordinated the planning with the participating

R-1 National Forests, conference participants and the facilitating staff in the RO. Kristi Jacobsen, of the RO Information Systems staff, supervised the electronic networking and the operation of the equipment during the three-hour conference linking approximately 150 people at 13 National Forest sites and the RO.

The electronic conference included members of the public who had attended the American Forest Congress or one of the pre-Conference "roundtables." Beth Horn, RO P&GR Director, facilitated the conference. In addition to Forest Service employees, participants included private citizens, representates from other Federal and State agencies and people with special interests in mining, conservation, logging, ranching, outdoor recreation and others who use R-1 National Forests and National Grasslands.

Regional Forester Hal Salwasser opened

the discussion, "I encourage you to take full advantage of this new videoconferencing capability. It is a unique way to improve and enhance communications at all levels and geographical locations."

Salwasser encouraged a "common ground approach" for conference participants, placing major emphases on ideas and approaches we have in common. "We need to value diverse values, approaches and ideas."

Videoconference participants concluded the electronic meeting met the objectives, was productive, efficient and effective. Conference objectives included:

- build on the vision developed at the American Forest Congress.
- build better community partnerships for forest stewardship.
- mentor other communities and groups.
- bring people together at the community level.

1910 Firefighter Memorial To Be Dedicated July 26 At Savenac Nursery Reunion

A memorial to 1910 firefighters will be dedicated Friday morning (July 26), 10:00 at the annual Savenac Nursery Reunion, Haugan, MT. Registration is 8:30 to 10:00 at the Savenac Administration Bldg. At 10:00, Cindy Enstrom, Superior (MT) District Ranger, will welcome those attending the reunion and the dedication of the memorial will follow. The memorial, to 78 Forest Service firefighters who lost their lives fighting the 1910 fires,

was ordered by the R-1 Regional Forester in 1941. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers at Camp Taft designed the memorial and a large rock weighing several tons was quarried in Silver Creek, near Saltese, MT., and moved to Savenac. A tree was planted in the nearby arboretum for each of the 78 firefighters. Plans for completing the memorial were interrupted by the beginning of World War II and the closure of the CCC camp. The memorial rock be-

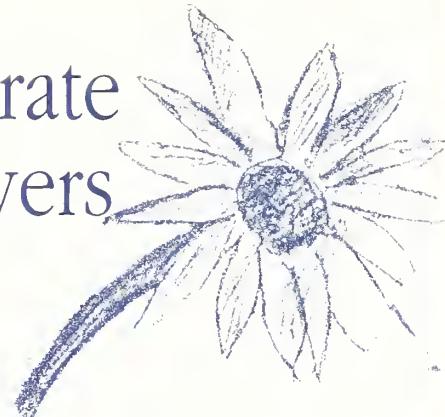


came overgrown with vegetation and forgotten. It was rediscovered after this information was shared by a former CCC worker at the 1993 Savenac Reunion. The bronze plaque originally planned for this memorial has now been cast and will be unveiled Friday, July 26, at the Savenac Nursery homecoming.

Wildflower Week

Children Celebrate Idaho Wildflowers

by Michelle Craig, Wildlife Biologist,
Pierce RD, Clearwater National Forest



Children in nine north central Idaho communities celebrated the beauty and bounty of wildflowers during the month of May.

Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, along with the Cottonwood Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management, observed National Wildflower Week with area youngsters May 19-25, sponsoring coloring contests, hosting nature walks, and helping the children plant wildflowers they grew in their school classrooms. Local service organizations and Forest Service employees prepared flower beds for the plantings.

Third grade students in Potlatch, Pierce and Weippe, Orofino, Kamiah, Kooskia, Cottonwood and Grangeville learned about the hundreds of wildflowers in the Clearwater and Salmon River regions. Presenters included Forest Service and Idaho Department of Fish and Game plus employ-

ees and people from local garden clubs.

Employees at the Powell RD, Clearwater NF, hosted a wildflower walk as well as a coloring contest for school children and day-care children at the Powell elementary school near the ranger station.

Personnel from the Nez Perce NF's Elk City and Red River Ranger Districts took Elk City elementary school children on a wildflower hike and extended the coloring contest to preschool and day-care children in Elk City and Red River.

Children ages 5 to 10 years old colored hundreds of beautiful posters. Contest winners came from each community. Clearwater NF employees, who helped make celebrating Wildflower Week such a fun adventure, extend their thanks to all of the people who made the celebration a success. Special thanks go to Kris and George Perry of Kooskia who built the flower beds at the Kooskia Ranger Station on a rainy week-



CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR JIM CASWELL presented wildflower T-shirts during Wildflower Week to Orofino Elementary School children who won the coloring contest in Orofino. Prizes were also awarded to winners in the communities of Cottonwood, Elk City, Grangeville, Kamiah, Kooskia, Pierce, Potlatch and Weippe. The contest was sponsored by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management as part of the Wildflower Week celebration. Photo by Pete Ruppel

end so that the youngsters would have a place to plant their wildflowers. The celebration of Wildflower Week was initiated in 1992 by the Forest Service and other agencies.

Voices of Calm

Flathead Interagency Dispatch Center Manages Pressure

by Boyd Malloy, Spotted Bear RD, Flathead NF.

"**P**resence of mind" is the ability that this group has that sets them apart: the ability to keep your wits about you when the pressure is on. This group has it.

Marilyn Johnson, Jim Sharp and Pat Troyer, the Flathead Interagency Dispatch Center operatives are the voices of the Forest. The essence of calm, they can vector half a dozen flights, dispatch a fire crew and simultaneously effect the extraction of an injured person, yet never seem to be near the edge of their capabilities.

Marilyn — one seldom hears anyone say Marilyn Johnson because there's only one Marilyn — is the ramrod of the organization. She is as pleasant and personable as can be, but Good Lord don't get between her and one of her cubs. Anyone for whom she has responsibility is one of her cubs.

"I take a special interest in the people I work with and consider them to be an extended family," she said. This attitude extends to her various volunteer community projects, her staff and those in the field.

Pat Troyer is one of those staff members, in the capacity of state dispatcher in this interagency office. Pat is also active in the community, serving as president of the auxiliary of the Creston Volunteer Fire Department, where her husband, Menno, is a fireman.

Ask Jim Sharp where he grew up and he replies, "In the Air Force." He was stationed in Germany for a number of years, later was assigned to the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and eventually retired with 23 years of service. These three are a lifeline to those in the field and are much appreciated.



VOICES OF THE FLATHEAD INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER, Flathead NF SO, Kalispell, Montana, (L to R) Marilyn Johnson, Jim Sharp and Pat Troyer, handle radio dispatch duties for the State and Federal agencies with crews in the backcountry. Photo by Boyd Malloy

Earth Care Fair For Earth Day

by Cass Cairns,
Information Assistant,
Bitterroot National Forest,
SO, Hamilton, MT.



left: Nancy Grayson, West Fork RD employee, shows students how to create paper animals with recycled paper.



(right): Playing with recycled materials.



(left): Students visit environmental exhibits.



(right): Children enjoy activities with renewable resources.

Photos by Cass Cairns.

In recognition of "Earth Day," Bitterroot NF Recycling Coordinator Ramona Mena Evans, with the Forest Recycling Committee, organized an "Earth Care Fair" in April for the communities of the Bitterroot Valley.

The objective was to provide recycling and alternative energy information for the communities of the Bitterroot Valley.

The Fair, April 23 at the Hamilton Community Center, featured displays and interactive activities for young and old.

Participants included valley recycling, energy-alternatives related to businesses, a valley environmental education organization known as the Bitterroot Down Home Project, local school students, and the Bitterroot National Forest.

The Bitterroot NF's Earth Care Fair was a great way to reach Bitterroot Valley communities with a new awareness of how people can reuse items and find alternative sources for their energy needs.

The Fair was a great success. More than 200 students and adults attended.

Where The Action Is Environmental Education At The Mall

by Gloria Weisgerber, Public Affairs Specialist,
Public & Governmental Relations Office, RO, Missoula

the Intermountain Research Station's Fire Sciences Laboratory in Missoula; and me, from the RO Public & Governmental Relations office.

With some misgivings, we decided it was worth a try. The hook was that the mall would sponsor the event, underwriting the entire \$900 cost involved in busing children to the mall location.

We settled on fire ecology as our theme. Jane and Nanka wrote the "script" for the exhibit. Nanka, Jane and Winnie put the exhibit together and RO Public & Governmental Relations and the Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Research Project chipped in to help pay the bills.

The assignment was daunting: three days of back-to-back, four-hour presentations. But volunteers were recruited from many sources. In addition to the above-listed staff there was Elaine Poser from the RO; Leaf Magnuson and Nita Vandegrift from the Lolo National

Forest; Kendra Garrish and Andy Randall from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. It was truly a group effort, involving three Forest Service facilities and the State of Montana.

The payoff was in our talking with 860 children, grades 1-5, from throughout the city of Missoula about stories trees have to tell us and the role of fire in our ponderosa pine forests.

Classroom teachers went away with follow-up activities; the grade-school children went away impressed they had seen a cross-section of a 600-year-old ponderosa pine tree. The pine had plenty of stories to tell and had survived at least 13 forest fires and was a youngster of 300 or so when Pocahontas met John Smith.

Cooperation was everything in making the presentation and exhibit happen. It permitted us to bring an interesting and understandable environmental education message to 860 children, which turned out to be a worthwhile investment of time and effort.



Elaine Poser, program assistant, RO Wildlife, Watershed, Fisheries and Rare Plants, explains the history of the Story Tree to elementary students visiting Southgate Mall during Earth Week.

Photo by J K. Smith.

Environmental education at the mall? Sounds like a contradiction in terms. When the invitation came from Missoula's Southgate Mall, asking the Forest Service to join other agencies in presenting natural resource education to children in celebration of Earth Week, we pondered long and hard. The "we" included Winnie Schreiber, Lolo NF; Jane Kapler Smith and Nanka McMurray of

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE: A Natural Investment

by Deborah Richie, RO Wildlife, Watershed, Fisheries, & Rare Plants.

ers and anglers have paid similar user fees on their gear for more than half a century, resulting in the conservation of millions of acres of wildlife habitat and restoration of declining game species. By expanding user fees to more equipment, all who appreciate wildlife and the outdoors will reap the benefits. The proposed fee would never exceed 5 % of the manufacturer's price.

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) is spearheading Teaming with Wildlife. The national coalition supporting the initiative has grown to more than 400 members.

By teaming up with wildlife, the resulting funds will clearly enable a much higher level of participation by the States in interagency

ecosystem management, including efforts on or adjacent to public lands administered by the Forest Service. That capability will improve our collective effectiveness in managing resources on an ecosystem basis, across jurisdictional boundaries.

Coalitions of agencies, organizations and citizens are forming in all 50 States to provide information, develop support, and suggest funding priorities.

State fish and wildlife agency coordinators in the Northern Region States are: Joan Bird, (406)444-3750 for Montana; Wayne Melquist, (208) 334-2920 for Idaho; Arlene Dowd Stukel (605)773-4229 for South Dakota; Chris Grondahl (701) 328-6612 for North Dakota.

Nationwide, Teaming with Wildlife, also known as the Fish & Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative, is gathering momentum as a workable mechanism for generating \$350 million annually for State-based wildlife conservation, recreation and education programs.

The funds would come from dedicated user fees on outdoor equipment (binoculars, field guides, tents, bird feeders, etc.). Hunt-

Noxious Weed War

Hairy Weevil Bug Battles Starthistle

by Kathleen Thompson, Information Assistant,
Clearwater NF, Orofino, Idaho

A famous cartoon character once said, "We have met the enemy." That enemy is noxious weeds for many public and private landowners in northern Idaho.

Yellow starthistle is one of the culprits, invading crop and rangelands at the rate of 6,000 acres a year. More than 200,000 acres in northern Idaho are now infested by yellow starthistle alone. The largest infestations are in Clearwater, Idaho, and Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties.

A Eurasian weed, yellow starthistle competes with native vegetation. It forms solid stands that drastically reduce and frequently eliminate the forage that animals feed on.

Clearwater NF managers are fighting back. Noxious weed coordinator Chris Kuykendall and silviculturist Bill Wulf recently released 100 archenemies of yellow starthistle to battle the invasive weed at the forest's tree improvement area near Lenore.

On a sunny summer morning they tipped a carton of 100 bugs onto yellow starthistle plants. *Eustenopus villosus*, commonly known as the yellow starthistle hairy weevil, clung to the tough stems, ready to do battle. The bug comes from the Mediterranean region. University of Idaho College of Agriculture professionals get the bugs and

work with landowners who want to use the biological control parasites, or agents, to fight weed infestations.

Each adult weevil is small, only 1/4 inch long at the most. They battle the weed by attacking the seed heads. Adults feed on forming flower buds, usually destroying a high percentage of them. They mate, and the female lays eggs inside seed heads. Larvae feed inside the heads and reduce seed production by as much as 89%.

The bugs multiply and spread. Next summer Forest Service personnel will "sweep" the area netting samples of the weevil — to determine how well the population is surviving. Then they hope to release another 500 weevils next spring (1997).

After that, the bugs will be left alone for two years. Then Forest Service personnel return to the site and net weevils to move to other infested areas.

Kuykendall takes her work seriously: "I would personally like to track these critters, whether it's my job or not." She hopes to continue releases each spring. Two years ago, Forest Service personnel released another bug at the Lenore site, *Bangasternus orientalis*. It is a weevil that also feeds on



Clearwater NF silviculturist Bill Wulf and noxious weed coordinator Chris Kuykendall recently released 100 *Eustenopus villosus* at the forest's tree improvement area near Lenore. The weevil combats yellow starthistle by attacking the seed heads.

developing seeds of the yellow starthistle. A recent sweep of the release site confirmed that the population is alive and well and doing its job. The number released was 200, which have multiplied and spread throughout the area. University of Idaho officials report that after the weevil was released at six sites, 1984-1986, the weevil is established and spreading in the Clearwater and Salmon River canyons.

These same officials say that biological control parasites do not eradicate weed infestations. What they do is reduce seed production, which in turn decreases the spread of the weeds.

For information about bugs that battle noxious weeds, contact Joe McCaffrey at the University of Idaho, Moscow: (208) 885-9489; or local county extension agents.



Participants in the "Mediation & Teamwork" class, taught by Sherry Munther, RO Ecosystem Assessment & Planning, at the Regional Training Academy.

Photo by Sherry Munther.

The Northern Region's first, one-week Regional Training Academy was conducted in April on the University of Montana campus in Missoula.

Attendees were greeted by Smokey Bear as they were gathering in the Harold E. Urey Lecture Hall for Regional Forester Hal Salwasser's keynote address.

"People are our greatest resource. During times of tight budgets we need to continue to invest in our people," Salwasser said. "With fewer people, we need to ensure that those remaining have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to do what needs to be done. We need to ensure their success by doing all we can to provide them with the tools to get the job

done. The Training Academy concept is an effective way to make that happen."

"I see professional career development as essential to our success. This is the first time we've had a unified training academy involving multiple aspects of the work we do. The unified academy structure is an excellent way to maximize training while minimizing the financial and time impacts."

Sister Elsie Kelly gave an outstanding presentation about "Thriving On Chaos".

Most RO staff divisions presented specialized courses at the Academy. More than 855 individuals participated in 167 specialized training classes.

Participants came from the Northern Region, Montana Department of State Lands, Forest Service's Missoula Technology & Development Center, Intermountain Region (R-4), Intermountain Station Science Laboratories, Missoula Aerial Fire Depot, and other private and State agencies and departments.



Smokey Bear (Scott Bixler) welcomes (left to right) Donna Sheehy, RO Engineering, chair of the Regional Training Academy (RTA); Suzette Dailey, RO Engineering, RTA team member; and Andrea Scheuerer, RO Engineering, RTA team assistant.

Donna Sheehy, RO Engineering, was chair for planning and coordinating the RTA. The planning team worked for more than a year in preparing for the Training Academy. Many people from throughout the Region provided invaluable support to the planning team and assisted with the many functions at the training sessions at the university.

3rd Annual

R-1 Civil Rights Conference Joins "CELEBRATING PEOPLE"

By Carole Schuft, RO Wildlife, Watershed, Fisheries & Rare Plants. Chair, TEAM USDA Committee.

TEAM USDA's 3rd annual "Celebrating People" program was a great success. The April 22-26 program was planned to coincide with the Regional Civil Rights Conference in Missoula.

The program featured a mixture of public speakers and local Forest Service and community panelists. Jetie B. Wilds, Jr., Director of Management Service, in the office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C., opened the program with a history and status report on USDA Civil Rights.

On the second day, a panel of speakers from the Missoula area inspired the audience with poetic and thought-provoking views on their values relative to landscapes and resources.

Gary Hendricks, Missoula Deputy City Attorney, representing persons with disabilities, spoke of historic Montana laws regulating recreation. Originally from the Soviet Union, Tatiana Gabrielson read poetry about her country's landscapes and shared her compassion for the people of Chernobyl.

Tony Incashola, of the Salish-Kootenai Cultural Committee, urged respect and balance for one another and the world around us.

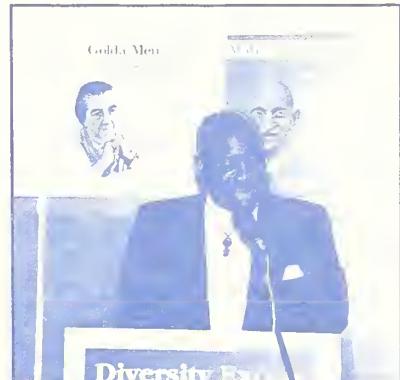
An enthusiastic and compelling view of Hispanic culture revealed commitment from Pat Aguilar, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle NFs, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. From the University of Montana, Dr. Gail Sanford captured the tragedy and waste of excluding African Americans, and Mary Yang from Missoula's Refugee Assistance Corp, shared her perspective on the displacement and resettlement of the Hmong.

The program ended with a fiery perception of Montana hate groups by Ken Toole of the Montana Human Rights Network and an emotional and fun celebration of Native American History through Jack Gladstone's songs and stories.

TEAM USDA found the event a big success and is already thinking of new ideas for next year.

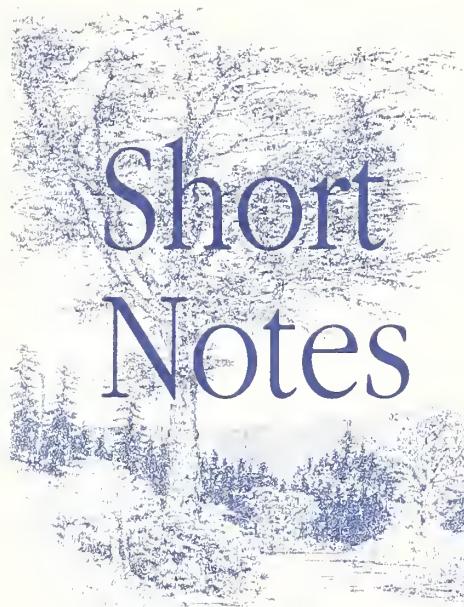


STEVENSVILLE (MT) DISTRICT RANGER LESLIE A. WELDON, Bitterroot NF, was moderator for the second day of the TEAM USDA "Contributions From Many Sources" program.



JETIE B. WILDS, JR., WASHINGTON, D.C., Director of Management Services in the office of the Secretary of U.S. Department of Agriculture, spoke on "The Action Before the Action" the first day of the program. Photo by Mark Wiggins.

Short Notes



NEW R-1 MAP-FOLDERS: ANACONDA-PINTER WILDERNESS topographic; prepared on computer (digital); 1:50,000 scale (1 1/4" to a mile); four colors. RATTLESNAKE WILDERNESS & NATIONAL RECREATION AREA—topographic; prepared on a computer (digital); 1:50,000 scale (1 1/4" to a mile); four colors. The maps sell for \$4 each.

UPPER WILLOW CREEK ROAD (No. 4325), 16 miles northwest of Philipsburg, MT, is now open for firewood gathering this summer. The road, on the Philipsburg RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, will be open until August 31. For additional information, telephone (406) 859-3211.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO WORK ON HISTORIC CABINS, 40 miles south of Ennis, MT. Work to be done on the Wall Creek cabins in August will involve repair of broken and missing window and door parts, painting and glass replacement. For additional information, telephone John Janik, Madison RD, Ennis, MT., Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, (406) 682-4253.

RANGERS TO BE HIRED FOR MISSION MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS: The Forest Service has agreed to a matching-funds arrangement with the Friends of the Mission Wilderness to pay the \$24,000 cost of rehiring two rangers to patrol the wilderness this summer. A local chapter of the Missoula-based conservation organization, Wilderness Watch, the Friends of Mission Wilderness raised the \$12,000 through private donations and foundations. The two rangers will report jointly to Wilderness Watch and the Forest Service.

CHANGES PROPOSED IN MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR ANACONDA-PINTLER WILDERNESS: The proposals include guidelines for coping with new requests for outfitting; managing requests for increased use by existing outfitters; dealing with noxious weeds; and setting up four "management zones" in the 158,000-acre Wilderness. Most of the wilderness would fall under the "least disturbed" zone and popular trails and destinations would fall into management zones where more use and evidence of use would be permitted. For more information, contact Judith Fraser at the Sula (Montana) RS, Bitterroot NF, (406) 821-3201.

BAN ON UNCERTIFIED FEED NOW APPLIES TO DEERLODGE NF: The ban on weed-infested feed has been in effect for several years on the Beaverhead NF. Now it applies to the Deerlodge NF, too. When you travel in the 3.3-million-acre Beaverhead-Deerlodge NFs, only certified, weed-seed-free feed is allowed. Forest officers will be looking for tagged weed-seed-free bales of feed this summer, not just a letter from the grower. They'll ask you to take your uncertified feed out. In flagrant cases, officials will give violators a ticket. A list of local certified feed supplies is available from Forest Service offices on the two National Forests.

ROBERT W. WILLIAMS APPOINTED PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION (R-6) REGIONAL FORESTER. Williams had been acting regional forester since John E. Lowe retired in March. A graduate of the U. of Minnesota (1957), Williams served as supervisor of the Beaverhead NF from 1974 to 1981.

BURNING PROJECT PLANNED FOR AREA NORTH OF DILLON, MT, NEAR MIDDLE MOUNTAIN. The burning is designed to burn stagnant aspen stands and areas of sagebrush colonization to stimulate aspen regeneration. It would encompass approximately 350 acres. For additional information and to submit public comments, telephone George Johnson, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF SO, Dillon, MT, (406) 683-3975.

BITTERROOT NF & BITTERROOT SKI CLUB OFFER REWARD for information leading to individuals who re-

cently vandalized the Chief Joseph Pass information area. For more information or to report information, contact Jeff Roundy, law enforcement officer, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF SO, Dillon, MT, (406) 683-3900.

PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED ON RACE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS to acquire legal right-of-way on Road 410, Salmon RD, Nez Perce NF. Based on results of scoping and completion of the environmental analysis, Forest Supervisor Coy Jemmett is proposing to implement Alternative 4, which would acquire legal right-of-way on Road 241 and provide public access to the National Forest in the Race Creek drainage.

MAY CREEK CABIN AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL, July 5-Sept. 3, 18 miles west of Wisdom, MT, Wisdom, RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NFs. Charge is \$20 a night. Bedding and cooking equipment are provided; renters must bring their own food.

LAND EXCHANGE BRINGS 497 ACRES AT MOULTON RESERVOIR INTO FEDERAL OWNERSHIP, Butte RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NFs. "This exchange protects a vital part of our municipal watershed," said Butte-Silver Bow Chief Executive Officer Jack Lynch. Butte District Ranger Margie Ewing said the exchange was the result of a cooperative spirit and a lot of hard work. "Our thanks to the Washington Corporation, Highland Lumber and the Flex Co. for helping make this happen."

TWO NEW GALLATIN NF MAPS, east half and west half. The maps sell for \$4 each.

NORTH FLINTS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: The Deer Lodge and Philipsburg RDs, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NFs are preparing an environmental assessment for vegetation management activities in the Gird Creek, Dunkleberg Creek, Blum Creek, and Crevice Creek drainages of the North Flints Range northwest of Deer Lodge, MT. The proposed action includes harvest of 6.2 million board feet of timber in mature and immature lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir. Prescribed burning would take place on approximately 1,358 acres to recycle nutrients, encourage ponderosa pine regeneration, increase forage and reduce conifer encroachment in parks.

Beartooth Scenic Byway Traverses Custer, Gallatin, Shoshone National Forests

by George T. Schaller, Custer NF Retiree,
Laurel, Montana

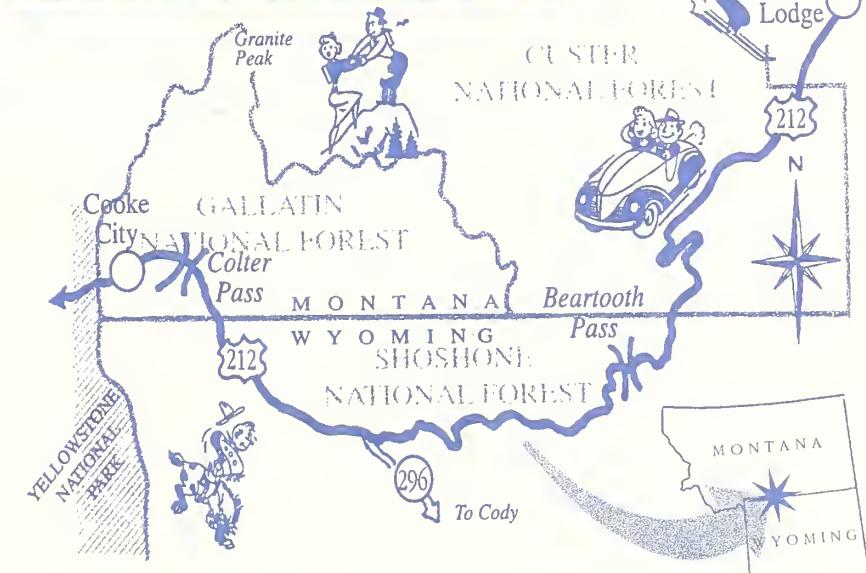
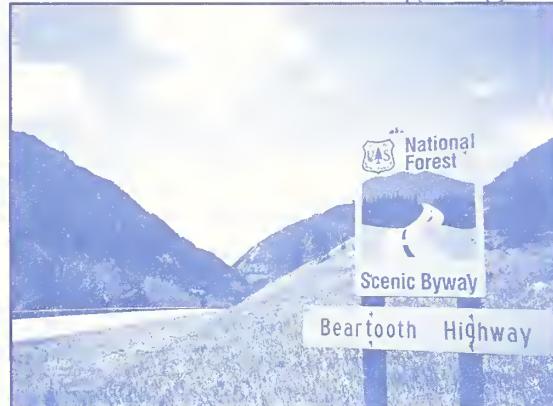
The Beartooth Highway (U.S. 212), between Red Lodge, Montana, and the northeast entrance to Yellowstone National Park, was first opened to public travel on June 12, 1936. This 68-mile segment was designated a National Forest Scenic Byway on February 8, 1989.

It climbs from an elevation of 5,500 feet at Red Lodge to 10,949 feet at the West Summit of Beartooth Pass. The roadway is open seasonally from around Memorial Day weekend until about October 1. An estimated 250,000 visitors (100,000 vehicles) travel the scenic highway each year during this four-month period, May to October.

Travelers on this high-altitude scenic byway see fantastic alpine and mountain scenery, many lakes alongside the highway and other lakes that can be seen below the highway. Wildflowers provide a blanket of color at various elevations as the May to October season progresses. The byway is well named: "Scenic."

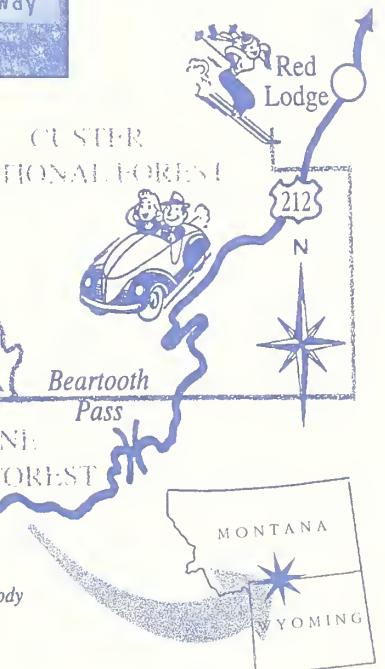
Last year, the U.S. Department of Transportation, utilizing Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act funds, completed a Beartooth highway reconstruction/improvement project. The work included the reconstruction of the Rock Creek Overlook and new guardrails and surfacing on the Rock Creek switchbacks. The trail to the overlook and the overlook viewing platform are now barrier free.

The State of Montana installed vault toilets at the Rock Creek Overlook and maintains the parking and toilets facilities as a Highway Department rest stop. Construction was completed this past summer. The Forest Service maintains trail and overlook interpretive facilities.



(Above) **ROCK CREEK OVERLOOK** parking area, rest rooms and trail to the overlook. Photos by George T. Schaller.

(Left) **BEARTOOTH SCENIC BYWAY**, 7 miles south of Red Lodge.



Forest Service engineers are planning modifications at the Beartooth Ranger Station, Red Lodge, MT., to provide barrier-free facilities and information service at this northern end of the Beartooth Scenic Byway.

There are 10 Forest Service campgrounds along the highway and numerous hiking trails. Beartooth Plateau snowfields provide snow for sledding and skiing until mid-July

most years. In June and July, aspiring slalom skiers train on the Twin Lakes headwall, near east summit, at the Red Lodge Ski Race Camp. The ski lift is not available for public skiing.

For additional information about the Beartooth Scenic Byway, telephone the Beartooth Ranger Station, Red Lodge, Montana (406) 446-2103.

Tom Wagner Receives 1996 Heritage Award

by Mike Beckes, Regional Archeologist,
RO Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage & Wilderness

Darby (MT) District Ranger Tom Wagner, Bitterroot NF, received the Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage and Wilderness (RMLH&W) Director's Award for Excellence in Heritage Program Management.

The award is presented annually to line or staff officers who have provided extraordinary support, counsel and guidance to Heritage Program projects and personnel.

Tom Wagner's unflagging support for the acquisition and preservation of the historic Woods Cabin at Lake Como was critical in the completion of this effort. His ability to rally diverse community supporters and partners was the crucial element that made the Woods Cabin project a success.

The Woods cabin is available for environmental and cultural educational purposes, community events and administrative uses. Regional Archeologist Mike Beckes presented the award on behalf of RMLH&W Director John Drake at a morning staff meeting at the Ranger Station.



Darby (MT) District Ranger Tom Wagner (center) receives the RMLH&W Director's award from Regional Archeologist Mike Beckes for support, counsel and guidance to Heritage Program projects and personnel. Bitterroot NF Archeologist Marcia Cross (left) nominated Wagner for the regional award. Photo by Lenny Hinman, Darby RD, Bitterroot NF.

Seminar Series

Working With Communities In Transition

by MaryAlice Stoner and Lois Peterson, Nez Perce NF SO,
Grangeville, Idaho

How do National Forests interact with local communities?

This topic was presented in the Regional Forester's Seminar Series in May by Dave Poncin, Leonard Lake, and MaryAlice Stoner of the Nez Perce NF, and Jim Wiebush of Clear Water Forest Farms.

As moderator, MaryAlice noted that the Nez Perce NF is located completely within the 5-1/2-million-acre Idaho County, one of the largest and most remote counties in the country.

MaryAlice explained that there are so few people in Idaho County that we all have to pitch in to make things work. For example, we interact with the Idaho County Commissioners, the local service clubs and School District 241. Our Forest has an excellent working relationship with the Idaho County Sheriff's Department, the Idaho State Police, and the Grangeville City Police. Mike Merkley, the special agent for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, says, "We're such a small law enforcement community that we HAVE to rely on each other." This sums up how we do business and live our lives day by day.

Jim Wiebush discussed Elk City, a community that has been resource dependent through both the rise and fall of the mining industry in the late 1800s and the rise and recent decline of the timber industry. Now they are working to diversify to maintain the rural lifestyle that most people live there for. As a result of their efforts, they received a 1995 Forest Service National Rural Community Assistance Spirit Award. The Forest

Service also provided Elk City with scholarships for community leaders to attend the R-1 Ideas Fair and the Idaho Community Leader Forums and an \$8,000 Economic Recovery grant.

Wiebush said the major recent accomplishments of Elk City include: a community action plan; a medical clinic; a school outdoor education classroom; basketball teams coached by Forest Service volunteers; and the Central Idaho Forest Net (a link between people in the wood products business).

Leonard Lake described how noxious weeds are quietly changing the character of many of our wildlands. He related how a working group of landowners from the Salmon River canyon and officials from Idaho County and the Nez Perce National Forest identified the need for an initial weeds inventory. They created a data base of all weed infestations regardless of ownership. Now everyone can work from the same information and toward the same goal. Landowners now realize that while weed control used to be an afterthought, it must now be part of every decision.

Dave Poncin presented a glimpse of the past that shows the community is working to provide an exciting future. The Tolo Lake Mammoth project has been one of the most challenging cooperative projects that the State, community and Forest Service have participated in. This project involved the excavation of the Columbian Mammoth



Left to Right: Dave Poncin, Leonard Lake, Jim Wiebush and MaryAlice Stoner.

skeletons from State-owned Tolo Lake. It was a tremendous challenge, working with a variety of agencies and civic groups to facilitate the excavation of this important historic resource. As Poncin says, "We pulled it off and did it well!"

The Nez Perce NF has been a concerned partner in the Rural Community Assistance Program since the Farm Bill was passed in 1990. We have provided further support, resources and encouragement by requesting more than \$700,000 for projects ranging from recreation vehicle dump stations to noxious weed management. The Northern Region's State & Private Forestry program has awarded more than \$155,000 for our communities to complete a wide range of projects including improving ski areas and a strawboard feasibility study.

Just look around. The results show! Enthusiastic Forest Service employees — drawn here by the remoteness of the area, their interest in people, and using their energy to work with local communities and forest users — are making our towns better places. This is, also, critical to the success and survival of the Forest Service. After all, we live where we work. The communities' survival affects the quality of our day-to-day living.

Personnel Actions

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BALLARD, G. (BLAKE), supervisory forester, performance bonus, Palouse RD
 BRANGAN, PAMELA, GIS technician, promotion from Powell RD to R-9,
 Mononghela NF
 COYNER, J. (JACK), soil scientist, performance bonus, Palouse RD
 EDWARDS, RICK, fisheries biologist, promotion from Pierce RD to
 National Marine Fisheries Service, Boise, ID
 HALL, GLADYS, support services supervisor, performance bonus, Palouse RD
 LAY, SUZANNE, forester, performance bonus, Palouse RD
 SCOTT, MICHAEL, forestry technician, temporary promotion, North Fork RD
 SUK, SALLY, computer specialist, promotion, SO

Reassignments/Transfers

JOHNSTON, DIANE, civil engineering technician, reassignment, SO from
 R-8, George Washington & Jefferson NF's
 VANDER PAS, MIKE, forestry technician, reassignment Pierce RD from Nez Perce NF

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

VIGIL, ANDY, forester, Swan Lake RD, temporary promotion
 DOCHERTY, RACHEL, lead forestry technician, promotion, Wasatch-CacheNF

Resignations

ROOS, DOREEN, information assistant, Tally Lake RD
 GREGORY, SHARI, wildlife biologist, SO

Retirements

FEDOR, TOM, forestry technician, Tally Lake RD
 STOUT, BERT, district ranger, Tally Lake RD

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

Cassidy, K.C., Supervisory Computer Specialist, SO, QSI
 Dickey, Loren, Telecommunications Specialist, SO, QSI
 Marx, Barb, Resource Specialist, Bozeman Ranger District, QSI
 Mosby, Cindy, Computer Assistant, SO, QSI

Resignations

Gooby, Mary Ann, Office Automation Clerk, SO

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST

Reassignments/transfers

DOHMHEN, ALAN, Sandpoint R.D., wildlife biologist, reassignment,
 wildlife biologist, Salmon-challas N.F.
 MYERS, DANILE, Bonners Ferry R.D., supervisory forestry technn, fire,
 reassigned, supervisory forestry technn, multi:resources.
 SMITH, KELLY, Bonners Ferry R.D., forestry technn., silviculture,
 reassigned,term position, forestry technn, multi-resources.

REGIONAL OFFICE

Awards & Promotions

DORVILLE, DOROTHY, financial assistant, MTDC, promotion
 HARBOUR, TOM, supervisory forester, AFD, promotion from R-5, angeles NF
 PETTIGREW, JR., THOMAS A., supervisory general engineer, ENGR, promotion
 Reassignments/Transfers
 FEARS, DALE, budg & acctg anal, LEWIS & CLARK NF reassignment,
 accountant, FR
 McALLISTER, KATHLEEN, deputy regional forester for resources,
 RFO, reassignment from R-9, Superior NF
 WEISENBURGER, BETTY, appeals spec, F&R, reassignment, appeals
 spec, EA&P

JOEL D. HOLTROP, Kalispell, MT, supervisor of the Flathead NF, has been named deputy director of range management in the Forest Service national headquarters. A veteran of 20 years with the Forest Service, Holtrop will report to his new assignment in Washington, D.C. August 4. He has served as supervisor of the Flathead NF since May of 1990.



Joel D. Holtrop

IN MEMORIAM

ALBERT EUGENE BARNETT, 59, died April 25 at the Clearwater Valley Hospital, Orofino, Idaho. He grew up in Newport, Washington. After finishing high school in 1953, he graduated from a two-year program in diesel mechanics at Spokane (Washington) Community College. After working four years for a logging company in Potlatch, Idaho, Barnett went to work for the Forest Service in 1961 and took a disability retirement in the mid-1980s.

JOHN D. BEEBE, 81, Hayden Lake, Idaho, died July 1. After 32 years with the Forest Service, he retired in 1971. He was assistant regional forester for the Pacific Southwest Region (R-5) at the time of his retirement. A native of Sausalito, California, he held a forestry degree from the University of California. He served in the Division of State & Private Forestry in the R-1 regional headquarters in Missoula, 1957-1960, and was supervisor of the Kaniksu NF, Sandpoint, Idaho, from 1960 to 1966. Mr. and Mrs. Beebe had been married 58 years.

JONATHAN CLEMENCER, 58, died October 20, 1995, in Whitefish, MT. A native of Norwalk, CT, he was a graduate of the University of Connecticut (1958). He moved to Montana and worked for the Forest Service. In 1970, Clemencer purchased a farm in the Flathead Valley and established a Christmas tree plantation. He helped organize the Montana Christmas Tree Association and served as president, marketing director and membership chairman.

VERNON FINDLEY, 88, died June 19 in Missoula. Born in Iowa, he came to Polson with his parents and moved to Missoula in 1932. Findley worked as an auto and heavy equipment mechanic for the Forest Service in Missoula. After his retirement from the Forest Service, he worked as a boiler engineer for St.Patrick Hospital for 17 years.

BLANCHE M. HOBLITT, 75, died July 1 in Florence, MT. Born in Victor, MT, she graduated from Victor High School and attended Kinman Business School in Spokane for two years. She worked for the Missoula Mercantile and the Forest Service in Missoula.

WILBUR A. (RED) SATCHELL, 77, died June 20 at the St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Lewiston, Idaho. Born in Rathdrum, Idaho, Satchwell started to work for the Forest Service in 1937, the year he graduated from Spirit Lake High School. He worked as a tractor operator. Satchwell served in the Navy in World War II as an airplane mechanic on an aircraft carrier at Kodiak, Alaska, San Diego and Seattle. After the war he returned to work with the Forest Service and retired in 1982.

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 Washington, DC 20090-6090.

Bill Goosman Honored By Outfitters-Guides

*By Laura Smith,
Visual Information Specialist,
Nez Perce National Forest, SO,
Grangeville, ID.*

Bill Goosman, Resource Assistant on the Moose Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce NF, has been named the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association's (IOGA) "Resource Manager of the Year."

IOGA Hunting Section Vice President Ken Smith nominated Bill for the award. The citation on the award reads, "Bill symbolizes building communications, understanding and trust with those outfitters that he works with."



**BILL GOOSMAN
ACCEPTS
AWARD from
Ken Smith (right)
at IOGA meeting.
Photo by Grant
Simonds.**

Deputy Chief Visits Bitterroot National Forest

*by Cass Cairns, Information Assistant,
Bitterroot NF SO, Hamilton, Montana*

Deputy Chief for Administration Kathleen Connelly visited the Northern Region headquarters in Missoula in February. It was her first visit to Montana.

She came to the Bitterroot NF with Deputy Regional Forester Dick Bacon, Director of Personnel Kathy Solberg, Management Systems Director Jim Reid, and Fiscal Services Acting Director Chuck Davis. As they traveled south up the Bitterroot Valley, their first stop was at the Stevensville Ranger Station before continuing on to the Bitterroot NF SO in Hamilton, the Darby RD, and Trapper Creek Job Corps Center.

Conversation topics varied at each stop on the way up the beautiful Bitterroot Valley. Each stop provided opportunities to meet with field and office personnel.

Connelly shared a little of her background and answered a variety of questions about some of the current issues in the Forest Service. Personnel in Ranger District offices discussed their ongoing projects and involvement in their communities. She was impressed when told of the Bitterroot NF Frontliners' network and quarterly meetings to keep up-

to-date with projects, policy and current issues. She complimented the Bitterroot NF personnel on how far along they are with the Forest Service's move to improve customer service.

The stop at Trapper Creek was Connelly's first visit to a Job Corps Center. The tour of the Center provided opportunities for her to see the range of training and education opportunities for students who would not normally have such opportunities.

Connelly said she was also impressed by the interaction between everyone at the Center, how they work, recreate, and govern themselves through the guidance of the administration and instructors.

Even though time was limited, and visits weren't as long as Connelly and employees would've liked, Bitterroot NF personnel appreciated the opportunity to meet and visit with Deputy Chief Connelly and ask questions of her on a wide variety of topics that affect the Northern Region. Her visit helped us all better understand the workings of the Washington office and some of the issues on the horizon for the Forest Service.

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